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AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

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LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1908

A GREAT MISSIONARY YEAR

PLAN OF CAMPAIGN



SECRETARIES :

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*Copies of this Pamphlet for gratuitous circulation can be
obtained from the*

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY,
16, New Bridge Street, LONDON, E.C.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

- APRIL ... Students' Easter Campaign.
- APRIL 15th to 29th ... Newcastle Missionary Exhibition.
- JUNE 4th to JULY 11th ... **"THE ORIENT IN LONDON"**
A Great Missionary Exhibition
in the Agricultural Hall.
- AUGUST ... Missionary Summer Schools at Aber-
ystwyth and Ilkley.
- AUGUST and SEPTEMBER ... Students' Autumn Campaign.
- SEPTEMBER to NOVEMBER .. **PREACHING CAMPAIGN.**
- SEPTEMBER to MARCH ... **STUDY CLASSES AND STUDY CIRCLES.**
- OCTOBER 7th to 17th ... Bradford Missionary Exhibition.
- NOVEMBER 15th to 22nd ... **SIMULTANEOUS MISSIONARY MISSION** in every Church.
- NOVEMBER to APRIL ... **CONFERENCES** on Organization.
- ALL THE YEAR... ... Issue of **NEW MISSIONARY LITERATURE**; and **SPECIAL PRAYER** for Missionary Work and Workers.

LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

SPECIAL MISSIONARY CAMPAIGN, 1908.

THE immediate object of the 1908 Missionary Campaign is **the deepening of the Missionary spirit**, which is simply Christ's own Spirit in our hearts. Time and again during the past hundred years, the L.M.S. has been the salvation of the Congregational Churches of these islands, if only by lifting their interests outside themselves, and leading them to take the larger outlook. Spiritual life is Christ's life in us, and the only way in the long run in which it can be deepened is by our coming to understand Him better, to see His purpose with clearer vision, to participate in it with greater fulness, and to share His outlook and His desire for the world's salvation and the travail which makes His Kingdom come. It needs, perhaps, to be said at once, and with emphasis, that this is **not a money-raising Campaign**, though it is hoped and expected that the result will be such an extension of missionary knowledge and deepening of interest in our Churches as shall prompt a large increase in their contributions towards the maintenance and extension of the work both at home and abroad.

The one object we have in view in this Campaign is to enlarge the hearts, to extend the horizon, to broaden the sympathies and to deepen the life of the members and adherents of the Churches. It is still astonishingly true that many of them are ignorant, many more indifferent, and some even hostile to the work that is going on abroad. They "do not believe in it," which is simply to say that they do not sufficiently believe in Christ. For to believe in Him is not to hold an opinion about Him, not to sign a creed, not to belong to a Church merely, but to possess His nature, and spirit, and mission, to follow Him, to be in the world as He was in the world, to seek and to save the lost, at home as well as abroad, abroad as well as at home.

The missionary question holds in its hands the solution of every problem, the conquest of every difficulty, which confronts our Churches in these days. Solve that, and everything is solved. Our Churches are poor, but their pressing need is not the need of money but of faith. And the L.M.S. is poor; for the last 15 years it has closed its annual accounts with deficits. Yet its first need now, as always, is not of money, but of more abundant life.

The attempt to meet this need, and by God's grace to supply it in some measure, by making 1908 a great Missionary Year, is to be made in a variety of ways, which it is the purpose of this leaflet to explain.

The year may be said to begin with Dr. R. Wardlaw Thompson's accession to the Chairmanship of the Congregational Union in May, and his address from the Chair at the City Temple.

A month later, from June 4th to July 11th,

"THE ORIENT IN LONDON,"

a great Missionary Exhibition, under the auspices of the Society, will be held in the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, N. It will be by far the largest Exhibition of the kind ever organised, and will contain the most complete representation possible of our work in London, in the Colonies, and in Heathen Lands, and of the conditions under which, and the success with which, it is being carried on. By means of 20 courts filled with thousands of interesting things from the countries represented, of 90 foreign scenes depicting the life of the people and the methods of Christian work among them, of historical and other tableaux, of children's sketches and demonstrations, of cinematographic and phonographic exhibitions, of a Hall of Religions, and a great "Pageant of Darkness and Light," an effort will be made to bring home to the hundreds of thousands of visitors, through the eye as well as through the ear, the bitter need of heathendom, the methods employed by the Missionaries in their endeavours to supply that need, and the success that has attended these efforts. Sermons and lectures will also be delivered, addresses given in the courts, model

study classes held, methods of organization explained, literature circulated, and other means employed, to lay the missionary obligation on the conscience of the people. Excursions are to be run from all parts of the country. An army of about 15,000 Stewards and other helpers is being trained in London and the Home Counties to take charge of the Exhibition. **This army will not be disbanded** at the close, but kept in being as far as possible for missionary service in the years to come.

Other large Exhibitions during the year are at Newcastle from April 15th to 29th, and at Bradford from October 7th to 17th, and many of smaller dimensions will be held in other places.

During the four weeks of August two

SUMMER SCHOOLS,

or Holiday Conferences, will be held at Aberystwyth and Ilkley. For many, who have attended the Schools of the past three summers, they have provided the most pleasant as well as the most profitable week of the year. New friendships have been made, new interests and hopes awakened, new ways of helping the Kingdom of God discovered, and new inspiration given to life.

The one week at Buxton last Summer will this year become four at Aberystwyth, and the month at Ilkley will be repeated. The latter is especially, though not exclusively, for Sunday School teachers and workers among the young. **Each week at each centre will be complete in itself**, though members will be welcomed for longer periods. Particulars of subjects and speakers, terms, &c., can be obtained at the Mission House, to which all applications should be sent.

As soon as the holidays are over, that is, from the middle of September till the middle of November,

A PREACHING CAMPAIGN

throughout the country will be conducted by Congregational Ministers going out "two and two." Full particulars will be published later, but it may be mentioned that provisional arrangements have already been made for the following to preach or speak from 10 to 17 times in different parts of the country,— Rev. Professor E. Armitage, M.A.; Rev. H. E. Brierley; the Rev. J. Morgan Gibbon; Rev. C. Sylvester Horne, M.A.; Rev. R. F. Horton, M.A., D.D.; Rev. J. D. Jones, M.A., B.D.; Rev. J. H. Jowett, M.A.; Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, D.D.; the Rev. B. J. Snell, M.A., B.Sc.; Rev. J. G. Stevenson; Rev. H. Arnold Thomas, M.A.; and others.

These Services and Meetings are **intended primarily for supporters of the L.M.S.** There will, therefore, be no need to advertise them publicly. Announcements in the various Congregational Churches will be sufficient, and it may be necessary even to issue tickets to secure that Congregationalists may not be crowded out.

This is the more needful since it is proposed to hold, in connection with these gatherings, **Conferences for general discussion**, criticism, and suggestion, either in the afternoon or before the evening meeting, or at breakfast the next morning. These Conferences will deal, not only with the policy and needs of the Society, but also with the question of missionary organization in the Churches, and **especially with the preparations for**, and the conduct of, **the Simultaneous Mission in November**. The continuous impartation of missionary information will also be considered and urged. This is to be a definite and vital part of the Campaign. Indifference is born of ignorance. Knowledge of the work that is being done abroad will prevent a hostile or neutral attitude towards it. Besides, no Christian can afford to miss the inspiration which the study of applied Christianity in heathen lands affords. Our forces for the Christian Crusade at

home will be multiplied indefinitely if the Churches can ever be truly and permanently linked in sympathy and interest and intelligent prayer with their representatives abroad. A systematic, detailed, united study of the Mission Field and the progress of the Gospel in it is as needful for the inspiration of our lives and service as for the maintenance of the work itself. The formation of

STUDY CIRCLES AND STUDY CLASSES

everywhere is, therefore, to be pressed to the fullest extent within our power.

At Easter about 25 Students from our Congregational Colleges will visit, "two and two," the Churches of the smaller towns in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk, Worcester, Hereford, Gloucester, and other Counties, on a campaign for the promotion of this side of the work. Great things have been done in this way among all Denominations during the past 7 years, and the movement is as yet only in its initial stages. This year our own students will confine their efforts to our own Churches, and we bespeak a hearty welcome for them. A larger number, perhaps 50 in all, will engage in a similar Mission in September.

These meetings are intended specially for Sunday School teachers, Christian Endeavourers, and other young people. The two Students will each speak for about 20 minutes,—one upon the Watchword,—"The Evangelization of the World in this Generation;" the other upon the value of missionary knowledge, the need of intelligent prayer, and the duty of systematic giving. At the close a brief Committee Meeting of leaders will be held for the appointment (where non-existent) of a Missionary Committee and Secretary, the purchase of a Library, the formation of a Study Circle, &c., &c. As a rule, only one such evening will be given to each Church. Full particulars will be announced later.

A determined effort of the same kind among the Churches of the towns and cities will be organised by a special Committee.

Classes for the training of leaders of Study Circles will, it is hoped, be conducted during the summer in a dozen or more of our larger centres. Demonstrations of model circles will also be given repeatedly at the London Exhibition, and every week during the Summer Schools at Aberystwyth and Ilkley, and helpful literature of all kinds will be published on the subject and circulated gratis.

A Study Circle, properly so called, consists of about 12 members, meeting regularly for the purposes of missionary study. It may be a fortnightly meeting through the winter months, or a weekly meeting for a month or six weeks, with an interval of a month or two before another similar series. Every member takes a definite part in each meeting, and the success of the Circle will depend, of course, upon the way in which each does his share. A syllabus is prepared beforehand, and notes taken by the members for future reference.

Various methods of study may be adopted. The best, at first, is the study of some **one great field of missionary enterprise** based upon a suitable text book dealing with that field. The text books suggested for the L.M.S. fields next winter and supplied by the Society are,—

FIELD.	BOOK.	AUTHOR.	PRICE.
China ..	"The Uplift of China" ..	A. H. Smith, D.D. ..	2/-
India ..	On Village Life ..	Dr. S. K. Datta ..	2/-
Africa ..	"Daybreak in the Dark Continent" ..	U. S. Naylor ..	2/-
Madagascar ..	"The Madagascar Mission"	Jas. Sibree, F.R.G.S.	6d.
Polynesia ..	"Christus Redemptor" ..	H. B. Montgomery ..	1/3 Paper; 2/- Cloth

Study Schemes (1d. or 3d. each) based upon these five books and giving a syllabus for Circles, outlines for papers, books of reference, and other matter, will also be supplied. Also Horne's "Story of the L.M.S." (1/-) gives a short history of all the fields, and Mott's "Evangelization of the World in this Generation" (6d.) deals in outline with the whole missionary problem.

Other methods of study, more suitable, however, for Circles which already have a good knowledge of missions and the mission fields, are the study of forms of missionary work (evangelistic, educational, medical, industrial, &c.), of biographies of Missionaries, and the like. Or a Circle may take the form of a Missionary Parliament, a Report Meeting, a Fact Meeting, a Question and Answer Meeting, a Budget Meeting, &c., &c. Particulars of all these, and others, will be supplied by the Study Circle Committee.

In addition to these Study Circles, of a necessarily limited membership, it is hoped that many Churches will hold during the winter **Missionary Classes of much larger numbers** with the idea of reaching those who are not prepared to become Students in a Circle. The week night and other services and meetings, and even the Sunday services, may be utilised for these, and a course of Addresses or Sermons delivered on the books mentioned or on others.

The publication of

MISSIONARY LITERATURE

in considerable quantity has been entrusted to another special Committee. Some books have already been referred to, and many more are being prepared. A series of *Handbooks* will be issued on the "Fields of the Society," for adults, at 6d., uniform with *The Madagascar Mission*, by Rev. J. Sibree; and for children at 3d., uniform with *China for Christ*, by Miss C. Benham. Also about 20 *Lives* of famous L.M.S. Missionaries and others at 2d., uniform with *Cleaving the Rock—A Life of Robert Morrison*, by Rev. T. D. Rutherford, M.A. Further particulars of these Missionary Biographies, some of which will also be issued in Welsh, will be found on the back of the Cover. Also a number of *Outline Addresses* for ministers and others, and *Outline Lessons* for Sunday School teachers, &c., with leaflets and booklets of diagrams, maps, charts, and other similar matter.

All this will be preparatory for

THE SIMULTANEOUS MISSIONARY MISSION

from November 15th to 22nd. **This is the centre and pivot of the whole Campaign.** The arrangements will be made by the local Auxiliary Secretaries and Committees in consultation with the ministers and Churches, and it is hoped that every Congregational Church in the four countries and in the Colonies will share in it.

It should be clearly understood that **a Missionary Mission is not a series of Missionary Meetings** in the ordinary sense. Its first and great aim is to emphasise the truth, which a large number of Christian people appear to overlook, that the **Christian life is essentially a life of service**, and then from this stand-point to enforce the claims of Christ and the overwhelming needs of the Heathen World. The Mission does not deal, except, of course, by way of illustration, with the details of missionary work; but strives rather to deepen the spiritual life and to widen the sympathies of Christian people; and thus to appeal for consecrated service, as and when and where and how our Saviour and Master wills, for the evangelization of the world, both at home and abroad. Its scope, therefore, is comparatively limited. **It appeals exclusively to those who are at least professing Christians**, and assumes that the will of Christ is to be the deciding motive in human life. No collections are taken, except, perhaps, as thank-offerings at a concluding service, to meet the necessary local outlay on the Mission. But, of course, that does not exclude instruction and exhortations by the Missioners on the ministry of money.

Careful preparation is needed if the Mission is to be successful. It should be fully announced and advertised among the members and adherents of the Church, and of its various organizations. It will begin on one Sunday and end on another; although, if two Sundays are regarded as too many, the first need only be used for full announcement of the Meetings, and for prayer on their behalf. The Mission should include a daily Bible Reading or Prayer Meeting in the afternoon, and a Service with an after-meeting at night.

All the Societies and organizations connected with the Church,—the Sunday School, the P.S.A., the Choir, the Band of Hope, the Mothers' Meeting, the Bible Classes, and other institutions,—**should have their share** in the Mission. They may either abandon their meetings for that week in order that their members may attend the Mission Services, or themselves become Meetings of the Mission with special reference to their own aims and plans.

In towns containing more than one Congregational Church, the Mission may either be conducted separately in each, or become a united Mission for several or all, according to local conditions and convenience.

The Society cannot supply Missioners or make arrangements for them. The very simultaneity of the Mission precludes this. Ministers are asked to be the Missioners to their own Churches, and to prepare themselves beforehand for such service.

Where Churches can be grouped their ministers can share the work between them. Ministers of other Denominations, Directors of the Society, prominent laymen and ladies, workers among the young, and others can also be pressed into the service. **The local arrangements must in every case be left to the local friends**, and upon their initiative, and enterprise, and enthusiasm the success of the Mission must depend.

At the same time, every assistance possible will, of course, be rendered from head quarters. **Handbooks for the guidance of Missioners will be prepared, and Outline Addresses for the Mission provided**, though, of course, by way of suggestion merely. Leaflets for general distribution in the Churches beforehand, explaining the Mission and appealing for its support, will be issued gratis in large numbers. New and suitable missionary literature, as mentioned above, will be provided for free distribution, and for sale during the Mission and after. The Mission House is also prepared to give personal advice and assistance whenever possible.

After the Mission, and especially during the first three months of 1909, a second series of

CONFERENCES

will be held throughout the country. These will have **special reference to detailed missionary organization.** Suitable men and women will visit the Auxiliaries and Churches, in order to confer with ministers, deacons, Sunday School teachers, and Christian workers generally, with regard to the missionary organization of the Churches and Schools, and to improve and multiply, wherever possible, their methods of imparting information continuously respecting the work abroad, of encouraging prayer for it, and of raising funds for its support. Interviews will also be arranged with the Missionary Secretary and Treasurer, the members of the Ladies' Auxiliary, the officers of the Christian Endeavour Society, and others. **Large Meetings are not needed** for such Conferences; the essential thing is, that the more influential members of the Churches and its institutions are met by the visitor in every case.

PRAYER.

The Campaign Committee realize that their plans cannot be successful unless the Churches enter into this great enterprise in the spirit of consecration and prayer. They therefore earnestly appeal to all the Churches in the Society's constituency to set apart one week-night service every month as a special missionary service for prayer for the blessing of God upon the Campaign and upon all forms of Missionary work at home and abroad.

Such, in rough outline, are the proposals made by the Society's Directors to the Churches they represent, for the utilization of Dr. Thompson's year of office as a great Missionary Year. Every part of the Campaign is designed entirely to make the Church more fully a ready, obedient, self-sacrificing instrument in the hands of Christ for the doing of His will on earth, and the hastening of the coming of His Kingdom. Suggestions for the improvement of this scheme of service will be gladly welcomed, and, if feasible, adopted. But what is especially required is **a hearty and widespread enthusiasm in the Churches** in taking up the various proposals and carrying them through. It matters less what is done than the spirit in which it is done. If only the energy, determination, and zeal, now animating the London Churches in their preparations for the Great Exhibition, can be prolonged through the twelve months and extended through the country, the result will certainly be such an accession of spiritual power as will solve many other problems, and vanquish other difficulties, as well as those of the Society. **The Churches that give most will receive most.** Let us pray without ceasing that the response may be equal to the opportunity, and that all may be done throughout to the glory of God.

A. M. G.



THE WORK LEFT UNDONE.

"THE work is only beginning, and we have barely touched the fringe of it. The natural increase of population in the heathen world is outstripping at this moment all our efforts; and if it is true, and I believe it has never been contradicted, that four millions only have been baptized within this (*i.e.*, the 19th,) century, it has been also said without contradiction that the natural increase of the Heathen world in that time has been two hundred millions, an awful contemplation for us to-night. . . . It is said that there are eight hundred millions on our earth to whom the name of Jesus Christ is unknown, and that ten hundred and thirty millions are not in any sense Christianized. Of

these, thirty-five millions pass annually in one ghastly, reproachful, mournful procession into Christless graves. They are dying so very fast! In China alone, taking the lowest computation of the population which has been given, it is estimated that fourteen hundred die every hour, and that in this one day thirty-three thousand Chinese have passed beyond our reach. And if this meeting were to agree to send a missionary to-morrow to China, before he could reach Chinese shores, one and a half millions of souls would have passed from this world into Eternity. Nineteen centuries have passed away, and only one-third of the population of our earth is even nominally Christian.

We are bound to face these facts and all that they mean for us to-night, and to ask ourselves how we stand in regard to this awful need of the heathen world. We have in this country 43,000 ordained ministers. If we were to be treated as we treat the heathen, we should have but 220 workers for the United Kingdom, of which number seventy would be women. In China alone we have but one missionary for half a million of people, as if we were to have one minister for Glasgow, or Birmingham, or Manchester, or one of our large cities. I think we may say that to us indeed belongeth shame for this, our neglect. The Moravians, as perhaps most here know, have one missionary out of every sixty of their members. We have but one out of every 5,000 of our members. Theirs is an example that we can follow. Were we equally impressed with love and obedience, we should have 200,000 missionaries, and our contributions would be £20,000,000 a year. What an object this is to arouse the sleeping conscience with! We spend £140,000,000, or three guineas a head, upon drink; we smoke £16,000,000, and we hoard £240,000,000, while our whole contributions for the conversion of this miserable world are but one and a half million pounds, or ninepence a head. These statistics are dry enough, but they are filled with meaning, and an awful meaning if we would only dwell upon them, each one of us to-night in our own heart in the sight of God."—*Extract from a speech by Mrs. Isabella Bird Bishop.*

A PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL GOD, Who of Thy great goodness hast redeemed us from the misery of our sins, and called us into the fellowship of Thy Son, grant, we beseech Thee, that we, rejoicing in the unspeakable gift which we have received at Thy Hands, and mindful of the glory of our high calling in Christ Jesus Our Lord, may ever show forth Thy praise by the faithful use of all our privilege in the Kingdom of Thy grace. Feed us evermore with the Bread of Life, and give us to drink of the Cup of Salvation, and grant that we, who share Thy bounty, may not fail to distribute the same to all who are in sore hunger and need throughout the whole world. From all hardness of heart, from all love of our own pleasure and comfort, and from all neglect of duty, and of the sheep of Thy flock whom Thou hast committed to our trust, Good Lord deliver us. Quicken within us a holy compassion for all that wander and are ready to perish. Fill us with that Divine love by which alone we may show ourselves to be the children of the Highest. Send us into the world as the ambassadors of Him who died for its redemption, and grant that in all our work done in His sacred name we may be partakers of His most blessed Spirit, that so it may be given to us to win the souls of men from darkness and the shadow of death, that they may live in the light of the Lord for ever.

Forgive, we humbly entreat Thee, all the infirmity and failure of past years, and breathe into us the zeal which will move us to ceaseless labour, the wisdom which will preserve us from error, and the charity which will bind us to each other, and to all the saints, that so, in us, and by our means, Thy Kingdom may and Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. And all this ask in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

CAMPAIGN LITERATURE.

Special Literature in connection with the Campaign is in course of preparation.

New Illustrated Series of Missionary Biographies, 2d. each.

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India (3): Rev. William Bolton, M.A.

Central Africa: Mrs. John May, B.A.

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alist of Missionary Literature: Mr. F. H. Hawkins, LL.B.

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Outline Addresses.

These should be sent to

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